



COVID-19 Vaccine Facts

Concern: *People with significant allergic reactions shouldn't get the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine*

Fact: **Being allergic to one thing does not mean that you're allergic to another. People who have an allergic reaction to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine should not receive it.**

Concern: *The vaccine was rushed to market and hasn't been adequately tested for safety*

Fact: **COVID-19 vaccines have been evaluated extensively in large-scale clinical trials. FDA will authorize their use only after reviewing this data.**

Concern: *The COVID-19 vaccine can cause sterilization*

Fact: **There's no evidence to support sterilization as a side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine.**

Concern: *The vaccine only reduces symptoms but does not prevent getting or spreading COVID.*

Fact: **The trials showed that the vaccine prevents COVID-19 illness but did not evaluate whether they prevent infection or transmission. We don't yet know whether they prevent infection or transmission.**

Concern: *The vaccine will be mandatory.*

Fact: **When a vaccine is authorized for emergency use, patients need to agree to receive it. There are no plans to mandate the COVID-19 vaccine.**

Concern: *The side effects of the vaccine are worse than the side effects of getting COVID.*

Fact: **The COVID-19 vaccine can cause pain at the injection site, headache and muscle aches. These side effects appear to be more severe than with most vaccines but resolve in a day or two. While COVID-19 can be mild, it can also be very severe or even fatal.**

Concern: *The vaccine won't help your body build immunity the same way getting the virus will.*

Fact: The body builds immunity to COVID in a different way with the vaccine than through infection. But the vaccine helps build immunity without having to get the disease, which can be serious and even fatal.

Concern: *mRNA vaccines are more dangerous than other vaccines.*

Fact: Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines appear to cause short-term side effects more often than many other vaccines. But these side effects do not appear to be lasting.

Concern: *mRNA vaccines can alter your DNA*

Fact: Messenger RNA vaccines work by teaching cells in the body how to make a protein that triggers an immune response, according to the CDC. Messenger RNA injected into your body will not interact with or affect your cells' DNA.

Concern: *If I've had COVID-19 and recovered, I don't need to get the vaccine*

Fact: Due to the severe health risks associated with the disease and the fact that re-infection is possible, people may be advised to get a COVID-19 vaccine even if they have been sick with the disease before.

Concern: *Once I get the COVID-19 vaccine, I can stop other safety measures like masking and physical distancing*

Fact: While the vaccine may prevent you from getting sick, it is not yet known whether you can carry and transmit the virus to others after vaccination. Until we learn more, it's best to continue with safety measures like masking and physical distancing.

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